



Connecticut State Dental Association

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Legislative Testimony Appropriations Committee

**Governor's Bill No. 7027 – An Act Concerning the State Budget for the
Biennium Ending June Thirtieth 2019, and Making Appropriations Therefor
Thursday, February 23, 2017**

**Dear Senator Formica, Senator Osten, Representative
Walker, and Members of the Appropriations Committee,**

**My name is Dr. David Fried . I am the Vice-President of the
Connecticut State Dental Association, a statewide,
professional membership organization representing 70% of
all licensed dentists in Connecticut. I have been practicing
dentistry in Wallingford for 26 years. I am here today to
speak directly to HAVEN, the Health Assistance intervention
Network, and to oppose the Governor's proposal to repeal
mandated reporting, eliminate the professional assistance
account and move the funds to the general fund.**

**HAVEN is the sole health Intervention assistance program
authorized by state law to serve virtually all licensed
healthcare professionals. HAVEN offers a confidential
alternative to "public disciplinary action for professionals
suffering from chemical dependency, emotional or
behavioral disorder, or physical or mental illness."**

Some could look at this as an accounting error or other administrative glitch. Others could look at this petty larceny of \$5. Others could look at this as Grand theft of over \$800,000.

The truth is that we must look at this on a personal level. This money for HAVEN was earmarked to help impaired providers, to make them whole again, and to help their families who are coping with a disaster. Professionals are not exempt from the issues of mental illness or substance abuse, yet they are in a unique position with access to pharmaceuticals and dangerous influence over others.

HAVEN was established to help these individuals and to protect the public, yet this legislative body ...your legislative body ... seems to stand between HAVEN and those who are seeking help.

HAVEN's doors are only open because the State Dental Association has given them free rent in our facility, but they are not able to provide services.

Your committee needs to decide on what is right morally to rectify the past and ensure that the future of HAVEN is unencumbered, and to hold those individuals responsible for this unfair action

Respectfully Submitted,

**David L Fried, DMD
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